



Early Childhood
Education Bills
Passed During the
79th Legislative
Session

Nevada Institute For Children's Research & Policy

NICRP

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The following represents the early childhood education bills passed during the 2017 legislative session. This list is not exhaustive of all the bills passed during the session. For an additional listing of bills passed during the 79th legislative session affecting children in the state of Nevada, please see our advocacy and public policy page: <http://nic.unlv.edu/advocacy.html>

OPERATION OF ECE PROGRAMS

CHILD CARE PRIORITY TO ARMED FORCES SB 326 (CH. 55)

Requires child care facilities to grant admission preference to children whose parent(s) is/are:

- Active Duty in the Armed Forces of the United States
- Killed or died as a direct result of injuries received while serving honorably on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States
- Is currently or was recently missing in action or a prisoner of war

SMALL CHILD CARE ESTABLISHMENT AB 346 (CH. 312)

This bill defines the term “**small child care establishment**” as a facility which provides care for not more than four children, outside of the home of any of their parents or guardians, for at least three weeks. It allows for **small child care establishments** to register with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, and requires all employees and residents at the facility to follow the same laws as larger child care facilities relating to mandated **background checks**, maintenance of records relating to those background checks, the termination of employees convicted of **certain crimes** or those who have a report of **child abuse** or **neglect** substantiated against them. It also allows for the Division to enter and inspect small child care establishments to ensure adherence to any laws and regulations.

DATA MANAGEMENT

P-20W RESEARCH AND DATA SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE SB 458 (CH. 529)

Senate Bill 458 creates the **P-20W Research and Data System Advisory Committee**. Section 4 of this bill requires the committee to develop and oversee a statewide longitudinal data system that links data relating to early childhood education programs and K-12 public education with data relating to post-secondary education and the workforce in this state.

LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITY TRANSFER AB 354 (CH. 427)

This bill transfers the responsibility for the oversight of the State’s statewide longitudinal data system that links data relating to early childhood education programs and K-12 public education with data relating to postsecondary education and the workforce in this state from the P-20W Advisory Council to the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Innovation.

TRAINING AND LICENSING

TEACHER LICENSING

AB 77 (CH. 501)

This bill adds a license to teach pupils in a program of **early childhood education** to the types of licenses available for teachers and other educational personnel.

NEVADA INSTITUTE ON TEACHING AND EDUCATION PREPARATION

SB 548 (CH. 602)

This bill establishes the **Nevada Institute on Teaching and Educator Preparation**. The institute will establish a highly selective program for the **education** and **training** of teachers and conduct research concerning approaches and methods used to education and train teachers and to teach pupils and evaluation, develop, and disseminate approaches to teaching.

TEACHER TRAINING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SB 189 (CH. 587)

This bill revises several facets of early childhood education. Firstly, this bill changes the **training** requirements for childcare facility employees. It also outlines new protective factors for children including preventing independent contractors from being in the facility alone when children are present. This bill also revises the **background check** requirements for childcare facility employees and sets guidelines for reporting charges of certain crimes and the termination of employees for committing certain crimes.

Training:

- All employees receive 24 hours of training annually
- 12 training hours must be dedicated to age specific training
- Two ADDITIONAL hours required in recognizing and reporting **child abuse** and **neglect**

Background Check and Reporting:

- All childcare employees, participants, and residents now need a background check
- Employees must report to childcare facility's license holder or applicant within 24 hours when they are charged for **certain crimes**, when investigations of **child abuse** or **neglect** are opened against them, or reports of **child abuse** or **neglect** against them have been substantiated
- Childcare Facility's license holder or applicant must terminate employees who are convicted of certain crimes or have had a report of **child abuse** or **neglect** against them substantiated

This bill also expands the scope of the health and sanitation inspection completed annual and requires the Division to establish a rating system which gives facilities a letter grade. The Division will be required to post the grade each facility receives on the Internet and at the entrance of the facility.

FISCAL CONCERNS

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SB 544 (CH. 394)

- Appropriates \$3,338,875 for early childhood education for FY17-18
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 - Money must be used for early childhood education programs
 - School districts, charter schools, and nonprofit organizations must submit a plan to receive a grant of money to:
 - Establish or expand prekindergarten education programs
 - Supplement money already being used for such programs (not replace)
 - Not be used to remodel classrooms, facilities, or playgrounds
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BUDGET 3267

The budget allows for an additional \$34.1 million in funding for Nevada's child care subsidy program to serve an additional 1,800 children. This budget also provides \$1.1 million in funding, which will allow more than 60 child care providers to receive coaching and be rated through the Nevada Silver State Stars **QRIS** program.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SETTINGS

PRIOR SEXUAL OFFENSES AB 362 (CH. 556)

This bill is to prevent persons who have engaged in **sexual misconduct with a minor** from obtaining new employment working with children. All sections of this bill make provisions for the governing bodies of institutions that work with children to obtain information on the **criminal history** of applicants for employment. This bill also requires the Department of Education to notify these bodies when an application for license is denied due to criminal history of **sexual offenses involving a minor** or a student, and to maintain a list of the names of such persons.

MANDATORY REPORTING SB 287 (CH. 338)

This bill requires school employees and volunteers to report **child abuse** and **neglect** to an agency which investigates these reports. This bill also requires agencies which provide child welfare services to investigate reports and forward substantiated reports to the Statewide Central Registry for the Collection of Information Concerning the Abuse or Neglect of a Child.

OUT OF SCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAMS AB 176 (CH. 149)

This bill requires local governments that operate out-of-school recreation programs for children comply with health and safety standards as well as to other requirements for the safety of children in the program.

The law requires programs to maintain certain records of participation in the program. It also requires that the program terminates the employment of any staff member who has been convicted of **certain crimes** or has had a substantiated report of **child abuse** or **neglect** made against them.

CCDBG 2014 COMPLIANCE
SB 46 (CH. 218)

This bill aligns the State of Nevada with the **Child Care and Development Block Grant Act** of 2014, which prohibits child care facilities from employing individuals convicted of certain additional offenses. It also allows the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to adopt regulations and establish a process to review evidence upon request to determine whether an employee or resident of a child care facility may remain employed, continue to reside or participate in the program, as applicable, despite such convictions.

OTHER BILLS THAT MAY IMPACT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

LGBTQ PROTECTIONS
AB 99 (CH. 9)

This law requires certain institutions and agencies to treat a child as having the gender which the child identifies with. This law also requires the employees of those agencies to receive training on working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning children. Such children must be placed in facilities and foster families that are appropriate for their **gender identity** or **expression**.

CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE
AB 305 (CH. 110)

This bill requires public and private schools to display a poster featuring a toll free number of a **child abuse** and **neglect** hotline.

BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING PROTECTION
AB 292 (CH. 278)

This law requires the board of trustees of a school district to assign a student who is a victim of **bullying** or **cyber bullying** to another school upon the request of the parent or guardian of the student. This bill also changes mandatory reporting of **bullying** or **cyber bullying** incidents.

Reports should include the number of reports of **bullying** or **cyber bullying** received, the number of times **bullying** is found to have occurred, and the number of times **bullying** is found to not have occurred. Reports will be made:

- Monthly to principal's direct supervisor
- Quarterly to the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

The bill also requires the school to report to the parent of the student involved in a **bullying** incident either:

- On the school day that the **bullying** incident is reported, or
- The next school day following the incident, if the incident is reported on a non-school day.